

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 43 of 1878.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 26th October 1878.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī"	Barāhanagar ...	4,000	
2	"Rājshāhye Sambād"	Rājshāhye ...	.....
3	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā"	Bhawānīpore ...	.....
5	"Suhrid"	Calcutta ...	.....
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Cālnā Prakāsh"	Cālnā ...	.....
7	"Hindu Lalanā"	Nawābgunge, Barrack-pore.	.....
8	"Sahayogī"	Bhawānīpore, Calcutta	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Banga Hitaishī"	Bhawānīpore, Calcutta	.....
10	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh ...	658	
11	"Bhārat Sanskarak"	Harinābhi ...	.....
12	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto ...	.....
13	"Bishwa Dūt"	Tāliganj, Calcutta	.....
14	"Bardwān Prachārikā"	Bardwān ...	165	
15	"Bardwān Sanjivānī"	Ditto ...	.....	23rd October 1878.
16	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	400	
17	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	1,168	18th ditto.
18	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	23rd ditto.
19	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca ...	300	
20	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	
21	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...	.....
22	"Pratikār"	Ditto ...	235	
23	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākiniā, Rangpore	250	
24	"Sādhārānī"	Chinsurah ...	516	20th ditto.
25	"Sahachara"	Calcutta ...	.....	21st ditto.
26	"Sambād Bhāskar"	Ditto ...	.....
27	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Ditto ...	5,500	19th ditto.
28	"Soma Prakāsh"	Bhawānīpore ...	700	21st ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
29	"Banga Mitra"	Calcutta ...	4,000	
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Sambād Prabhākar"	Calcutta ...	550	16th to 23rd October 1878.
31	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	.....	21st to 23rd ditto.
32	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto ...	625	
33	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto ...	.....
34	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto ...	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah ...	300	
36	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore ...	.....
37	"Barisāl Vartābāha"	Barisāl ...	300	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
38	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	400	19th October 1878.
URDU.				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
39	"Akhbār-ul-Akhiār"	Mazufferpore ...	.....
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna ...	509	23rd ditto.
41	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	.....	17th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
42	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto ...	250	27th Sept. and Oct. 4th and 11th 1878.

POLITICAL.

SADHARANI,
October 20th, 1878.

The *Sádháraní* says that British India has nothing to fear from the barbarians of Cabul, nor even from Russia, for three or four years to come, as the latter

power has been greatly crippled in men and money by the late Turco-Russian war. The present Cabul affair has been got up by Lord Beaconsfield for two reasons; first, to do away with the reproach of having tried to defend Muhammadanism during the late Russo-Turkish war,—for, by a war with Cabul, he will be able to show that he does not hesitate to shed Moslem blood when English interests require it; and secondly, to shut the mouth of Mr. Gladstone's party,—for, if the *Amir* fights, the inference will be that he is being backed by Russia, and the suspicions respecting Russian intrigue will be proved to have been well founded. We do not think that the Indian Government is wholly responsible for the present state of things. But it will fare ill with the people of India.

SOM PRAKASHA,
October 21st, 1878.

2. The *Soma Prakásha* is pleased that the first issue of the paper after the Puja holidays sees tranquility still prevailing and the flames of war not yet kindled. Lord

Lytton ought to make peace, and remember the fate of Napoleon III, the greatest of monarchs after Augustus, who fell and brought disaster on himself by provoking a war with Germany; and the fate of Hannibal, who, though a far greater general than Scipio, was ultimately defeated by him. The English cabinet ministers have cleverly thrown the responsibility of the present affair on Lord Lytton: may he not lose his good name and fair fame as Lord Auckland did? If Russia quietly backs up the *Amir* with assistance, England must gradually become involved in a war with that power. If Russia aids Cabul, the latter will with difficulty be subdued. How can the Government of India prevent Russia from secretly assisting Cabul? And if Russia has made up her mind for war, will she heed any prohibition the Indian Government may address to her? If on being interrogated, Russia has recourse to the same pleas as those she urged on a former occasion, or if she merely expresses her desire to enter into commercial relations with *Afghanistan*, and denies all intention to provoke a war with the Indian Government, or if she remains silent and gives no answer at all, will this Government set aside the *Amir* and grapple with Russia? After publishing translations of the two letters of Lord Lytton to the *Amir* (the last dated the 23rd August,) and the letter of Sir Neville Chamberlain to the commander of the fort of Ali Masjid, the writer regrets the policy adopted by our Government, as he does not consider the *Amir* guilty of any heinous crime, inasmuch as he is not subject to the Indian Government and refuses to be so. The writer does not believe the report that the *Amir* offered to meet the Viceroy at Peshawar. The *Amir* could not have done this after distinctly saying that he had no faith in the English Government.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
October 23rd, 1878.

3. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* hopes war with Cabul will be averted, for it will mean suffering among people here. Even

The Cabul War. if the *Amir* is defeated and his territories annexed, the conduct of the British will be condemned by the civilized world. The reason for the vast preparations going on is not to be found in any desire to save India from invasion by the weak and timid ruler of Cabul, but to gratify the pride of our rulers and extend the Indian empire and trade: such treatment of a weak neighbour and the kindling of the flames of war from motives such as these are unworthy the Government. It will be a grievous thing if the real motive actuating the Government should be a determination to conquer the weak *Amir*, and annex his country. The *Amir*, however, cannot

be said to be alone now; deceitful Russia is at his back, and her counsels account for his present conduct. Our one wish is, that Government may not plunge the country into war, and its subjects into distress. The best thing would be, not to annex Afghanistan, which would involve England in a contest with Russia, and bring trouble and expense, but to turn the *Amir* into a friend. Will the conquest of an altogether uncivilized and ordinary country like *Afghanistan* add to the power, majesty, and renown of the British Lion?

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

SANACHARA,
October 21st, 1878.

Amendment of the Press Act.

4. The *Sahachara* remarks that from the amendment of the Press Act, it will be seen that the petition of the native papers to be subject to trial by the ordinary courts of law, as also the letter of the missionaries with reference to section 10, have both been rejected. Mr. Gladstone and the other opponents of the Act said that the newspapers were not really seditious, but that the officials out here considered themselves *Nababs* and could not bear to be written against. The Act was not passed to defend the Queen's throne; but the local Government and its officials did not like their acts being criticized in an independent spirit, and they led Lord Lytton into an evil path. Almost every section of the Act refers to officials, and any one of these officials, like Mr. Kirkwood in the case of *Lálchánd*, may commit a thousand evil deeds, but the man who dares to write against him will be brought under the provisions of some one of the sections. The present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal takes occasion to abuse and vilify the writers of native newspapers in every review of a divisional report. We have all along said that the state of the country was not such as to necessitate the hurried passing of the Act. We have often remarked that Government has not the power to take a way from its subjects a right which it has freely bestowed on them; the right can only be suspended, like the "habeas corpus," in times of danger or emergency. Whilst the *abkári* and other bills are published ten times in the Gazette before being passed, the Press Act, depriving the people of this country of their chief right, was hurried through in a few hours. The Governor-General and Sir Alexander Arbuthnot observed that the Act was meant to put a stop to sedition. This word must be construed according to their dictionary; but the fact is, they are glad it has put a stop to writing against the Government and its subordinate officers. All we have to say is, that the passing of the Act shows the utter incapacity of the existing Indian Government, who have, without the least show of reason, imputed blame to the native public. Newspaper writers wish no ill to Government. We do not believe that independent writing will continue for ever prohibited in the British Empire, though future historians will be sure to blame the present administrators of India for passing such an Act. No one will believe that the country whose soldiers are so ready to go forth and do battle with Russia for England can be seditious. We know what history will say.

5. The editor of the *Soma Prakásha* was grieved to observe, during a recent visit to his native place, that small-pox had at the present season been prevailing in the neighbourhood. The writer attributes the calamity to the neglect of vaccination, the Government not having insisted on vaccination. A proclamation should be made to the effect threatening to punish all those who fail to seek the services of the vaccinator. We believe the villagers would have no objection, for the sake of securing immunity from the disease, to pay from one anna to two annas each. The cows, it seems, were first

SOM PRAKASHA,
October 21st, 1878.

attacked in the abovementioned villages, and the disease then spread to human beings. It would be worth while trying the experiment as to whether vaccine matter taken from a cow would prevent eruptive disease amongst cattle. The editor solicits each of his readers to send replies to the following queries, and proposes that the information so elicited should be submitted to the Government:—

- 1st.—How many people were there in the village 28 years ago, and how many are there now?
- 2nd.—What strength and energy did the people of former days possess, and what is their state in these respects now?
- 3rd.—What were the measure and quantity of food consumed by people of former days, and what is the extent of consumption now?
- 4th.—How used people of former days to spend their time, and how do people spend it now?
- 5th.—To what extent were the people of former days given to intoxication, and what is the case now?
- 6th.—How many opium and *Gánjá* shops existed in the village in former times, and how many exist now?
- 7th.—Taking a correct estimate of the population of the village, how many perfectly healthy people are to be seen in it?
- 8th.—Of the children born, how many are generally healthy, and how many sickly?
- 9th.—Have the articles which are consumed as food now, undergone any change as compared with the articles which were consumed formerly?
- 10th.—How used the water of the village to be drained off formerly, and how is it drained off now?
- 11th.—What was the state of the forest and *jangle* in the village before, and what is it now?
- 12th.—What was the state of dwellings formerly, as respects dryness and ventilation, and what is it now?

SOM PRAKASHA,
October 21st, 1878.

5. Referring to the fact of Mysore being an independent province, though administered by the English Government, the *Soma Prakásha* observes that, as it is now about to pass into native hands, it should be administered according to the native plan. The ministers and high officers of State should be natives competent to instruct and advise the ruler in all matters. Englishmen need not be employed on high salaries, when the services of learned and capable natives can be had for smaller salaries. Again, we have observed that Europeans get natives to do the work and then boast to the Government of what they have done. The good and able administration of their respective provinces by *Sir Mádhava Ráo* and *Sir Sálár Jang* is well known. These gentlemen are in no wise inferior as politicians to the leading politicians of Europe. The territories of native princes in which Bengalis have obtained high posts, have been seen to advance with rapidity. Take, for instance, Cashmere, which has *Nílambar Mukerji*. This province has benefited much since his appointment. Baroda and Travancore will also serve to prove that Bengalis are adepts in administrative work, and we sincerely trust that Government will throw no obstacles in the way of the administration of the territories of these native chiefs as at present conducted.

GRAMVARTÁ
PRAKASHIKÁ,
October 23rd, 1878.

6. The *Grámvartá Prakáshiká* remarks that the release of the native editors at the Surat trial has saved the honor of the native press, and sustained the dignity of British justice. The defendants suffered much during the pendency of the trial both in body and mind. Then there are the immense costs in the

case, and on the back of these troubles comes *Matilál's* reprehensible conduct. The defendants have been disgraced *in toto*, and subscriptions have been opened for them. Will no enquiry be made into the misconduct and injustice of the police, and will not previous particulars relative to *Matilál* be enquired into? The presence of counsel in the case brought to light the oppression of the police.

FAMINE.

7. The *Bardwan Sanjiváni*, looking at the present state of the country strongly advises that exportations should be stopped for a time. If allowed to go on at the rate they have been doing, the children of the soil must suffer. A famous political economist has said that the exportation of food grains to a foreign country tends to diminish the population of the exporting place. We cannot understand why our rulers do not stop this unlimited exportation of food grains from a country which seems doomed to periodical visitations of famine. The sovereign and the subject will suffer alike if they do not take the precaution of storing up grain in years of abundance against the years of famine, when hundreds of thousands of lives must otherwise be sacrificed. Government should at once put a stop to unlimited exportations.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
October 22nd, 1878.

8. Referring to the Resolution of Lord Northbrook, that all places where rice was selling at ten seers should be considered as famine-stricken, the *Sahachara* says that in *Behár* the above commodity is selling at three annas a seer. The prices of all other edibles rise simultaneously with the price of rice. People on fixed incomes are great sufferers, and many respectable families can scarcely get two meals a day; the labouring and artizan classes are undergoing great privation: never were such high prices or such distress seen in this country, which the Bengal Government regards as thriving and fortunate so long as the people can support themselves on rice selling at five rupees a maund. If this state of things continues three months longer, famine will commence its ravages. As special diseases require special remedies, exportation should be stopped.

SAHACHARA,
October 21st, 1878.

LOCAL.

9. Referring to the Annual Report of the *Bardwán* district the *Sádháraní* remarks that the prosperity of this part of the country can best be guessed from the great increase in its internal commerce, and the wages of the labouring classes. The only drawback is the epidemic fever. With this single exception, this district may be designated as the most prosperous in Bengal.

SÁDHARANI,
October 20th, 1878.

10. The *Sulabha Samáchára* complains of the neglected state of Carey's Church Lane, lying to the south of the Reverend Mr. Long's church; it is scarcely ever swept, and all the filth and rubbish of the neighbourhood are accumulated there. It is seldom repaired, and the least rain converts it into a puddle; as it is not a long road a small expenditure would place it in good order. The attention of the municipality is directed towards it.

SULABHA SAMACHARA,
October 19th, 1878.

11. The *Sahachara*, in its column of news, states that, malarious fever has set in at *Barrackpore*. There is no prospect of a full crop of paddy as the plains and fields are flooded with rain water; about an eight or ten-anna portion of the *aus* crop will be destroyed; and the people fear that, if the water now on the fields does not speedily disappear, the *aman* crop will be entirely destroyed. The water would pass off if the canal here were somewhat widened. Mr. Leslie of *Tittaghar* ought to enquire into the matter.

SAHACHARA,
October 21th, 1878.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
October 23rd, 1878.

12. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* announces in its columns the receipt of a letter (which it does not publish) from a correspondent complaining of great irregularities in the *Bhángámorá* post office, which he attributes to the *Bábu* post master in charge. It is hoped the proper authorities will enquire into the truth or otherwise of the allegations. The same correspondent complains of irregularities and mismanagement in the school at the same place.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI.

13. This paper complains of the mistaken economy of the *Bardwán* municipality in allowing the street lights to go out before time. Some people complain of irregularity in the delivery of letters in the *Nútanganj* post office, and ask the authorities to look into the matter.

MISCELLANEOUS.

JAM JAHANNUMA,
September 27th, 1878.

14. The *Jám Jáhánnumá*, to prove that the Russians have arrived in Afghanistan, says that a Cabul merchant has come to Simla for the purpose of offering eating utensils for sale, which bear a Russian stamp. The vendor takes care to exhibit the Russian mark on the goods to intending purchasers with the view of enhancing the price, but no one is found eager to buy.

[FROM THE ORISSA NEWSPAPERS.]

The editor of the *Utkuldipika* of the 7th September last, in writing on the "crime of bribe-taking," observes as follows:—

15. Of all the offences that are enumerated in the Indian Penal Code, there is perhaps no one so common as bribe-taking. It is easy to commit this offence, but it is difficult to detect it. It is on this account that the practice instead of dying out is daily gaining ground. Government has adopted several measures for its suppression, but the ill-success attending these measures is due either to the peculiar nature of the offence itself, or to the want of foresight and vigilance on the part of the authorities. During the last two or three months several cases of bribe-taking have occurred here, but owing to the absence of sufficient proof the offenders have escaped with impunity. Three Amlahs from the Commissioner's office were dismissed on the ground of suspicion and inefficiency. No proof was forthcoming against the amlah in the registration office. The Abkari Darogah was punished by the Magistrate, but he was acquitted on appeal. In short, we do not recollect a single person having been punished for this offence since the promulgation of the Penal Code. The Editor then dwells at length on the impossibility of bringing the guilty parties to justice, but adds that if the *hákims* were a little attentive to their duties, they would, no doubt, find means of checking the mischievous and illegal practice.

16. The same journal of the 7th September in reproducing the proposal made by the Principal of the Sanskrit College, *Bábu Mahesh Chandra Nyáratna*, to encourage Sanskrit learning by granting rewards to both teachers and students in proportion to the results achieved at the examinations, earnestly requests Government to accede to the laudable proposal made by the *Bábu*.

17. The same journal of the 19th instant, writing of "the oppressions connected with the river ghât," observes that the public are suffering seriously from the arbitrary conduct of the *mánjís* (boatmen). There are no proper arrangements for crossing the river. Passengers with their carts and *palanquins* have to pay more than the legal fare, and are further detained on

banks of the river for a day or two at a time, and are put to extreme inconvenience and unnecessary expense. Under such circumstances we cannot refrain from earnestly requesting our Collector to enquire into the grievances of the people and take immediate measures for their redress. The editor finds fault with the local *hákims* for not enquiring into the mismanagement connected with the Cuttack ferries.

18. The same paper writing of the impending Cabul war says—The present state of things indicates that war with Cabul is inevitable. It is hoped, however, that Lord Lytton, on whom depends the question of war or peace, will so arrange matters as to prevent any war from breaking out, otherwise the poverty-stricken people of India will come in for some of the worst evils naturally incident to war, such as taxation, &c.

19. The editor of the *Balasore Sambadabahika* learns with regret from a Bengalee paper entitled *Sanskar*, that the recommendation of our Commissioner to grant a pension to the Pooree Rajah's mother has been rejected by Government. The editor observes that the allowance allotted by Government to the Pooree Rajah's family is for the benefit of that family alone, and not otherwise; and when such is the case, we do not see why Government should not sanction our Commissioner's proposal. Perhaps Government thinks to entrust the management of the *Jagganáth* Temple to a salaried officer.

20. The same paper remarks that Orissa will not enjoy a full crop this year. The non-agricultural classes are exposed to serious hardships arising from the exportation of grains to other countries. The editor begs to impress upon the authorities the importance of putting a stop to such exportations in future.

21. The editor of the same paper learns that an amlah of the Court of the Deputy Collector of Cuttack, *Bábu Rangaldl Banerji*, has been punished by being compelled to rub his nose on the ground. The offence with which the amlah was charged, was that he had omitted through oversight to write 'Roy Bahadoor' after the words '*Bábu Rangalál Banerji*.' The editor thinks that the amlah must be an Oryah, otherwise the *Bábu* would not have dared to subject him to such an indignity. This instance, says the editor, affords a striking illustration of the antipathy of the Bengalees towards their brother Oryahs, who are regarded by them in the light of brutes.

22. The same paper reverts to its remarks made in a previous issue, to the effect that Government has conferred no good on the general public by reducing the salt duty. The public would be benefited if the contractor sold in proportion to the duty levied by Government; but when this is not done it is not too much to say that the said reduction is just a loss to the Salt Revenue.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 26th October 1878.

ROBERT ROBINSON,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

